

February 2010:

Montgomery County 's current policy for clearing snow covered sidewalks:

In 2001, the County Council passed the Pedestrian Winter Safety Act, addressing responsibilities for clearing County sidewalks. As established by this legislation, Section 49-24A of the County Code clearly places the burden for clearing sidewalks on the owners/managers/leasees of the property that adjoins the sidewalk. Montgomery County's Department of Transportation does not have any crews or resources for removing snow from sidewalks. Pertaining to the frustration of snow being plowed onto already cleared sidewalks, Paragraph (4) (B) – (c) specifies that "if a snowplow redeposits snow or ice on a sidewalk or other walkway after a person has complied with this Section, the person is not responsible for clearing the walkway until 24 hours after the snowplow redeposited the snow or ice." Our Parking Division does clear snow from our County Parking Facilities, including pedestrian pathways associated with accessing these parking facilities. And the Department of General Services does clear snow from the County's public buildings (libraries, recreation centers, etc.) Contractors and Community Service workers clear County bus stops. Municipalities may have sidewalk clearing programs that are separate from the County system. Other than that, the County Council and County Executive made the decision over eight years ago, with the approval of the "Pedestrian Winter Safety Act of 2001," that sidewalk clearing would be the responsibility of adjoining property owners. The agency responsible for enforcing this law is the Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Their phone number (Housing Code Enforcement) to report violations of failure to clear sidewalks of snow and ice is: (240) 777-3785.